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SENATE MEMORIAL 81

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO COLLABORATE WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, GIFTED EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A GIFTED EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT ON TEACHING LICENSES.

WHEREAS, studies show that gifted students have unique needs that require accommodations and modifications at school; and

WHEREAS, it is important that public schools meet the needs of gifted students and help them to realize their potential and maintain their motivation to learn; and

WHEREAS, research shows that in order to meet these needs, gifted education teachers must be specifically trained and highly qualified; and

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1           WHEREAS, highly qualified gifted education teachers are  
2 not only better prepared to meet the needs of gifted students  
3 but are a resource to general education teachers to assist in  
4 the differentiation of instruction to the benefit of all  
5 students; and

6           WHEREAS, in New Mexico, during the 2006-2007 school year,  
7 over thirteen thousand students were identified as gifted and  
8 were provided services by over seven hundred gifted education  
9 teachers, even though the state licensure system does not fully  
10 recognize the special requirements and talents of teachers of  
11 gifted students;

12           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
13 OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be requested  
14 to collaborate with state institutions of higher learning,  
15 gifted education organizations and the legislative education  
16 study committee to determine the requirements and competencies  
17 for a gifted education endorsement on teaching licenses; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department take into  
19 consideration the existing coursework at the colleges of  
20 education at the state institutions of higher education that  
21 offer specialized gifted education programs for students; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's study  
23 consider endorsement competencies for gifted education  
24 teachers, such as those proposed in the *Technical Assistance*  
25 *Manual for Gifted Education in New Mexico*, and existing

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1 portfolio guidelines for gifted education, such as those  
2 developed by the New Mexico association for the gifted; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also identify  
4 assessments currently available in gifted education that could  
5 be adopted within New Mexico as an appropriate gifted education  
6 examination that would demonstrate that gifted education-  
7 endorsed teachers are highly qualified, such as the "Education  
8 Testing Service PRAXIS II Gifted Exam"; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the public education department, the deans of  
11 the colleges of education at the state institutions of higher  
12 learning, the New Mexico association for the gifted and the  
13 legislative education study committee.

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